

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03

INR-10 NSAE-00 OC-06 RSC-01 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SPC-03 ACDA-19 DODE-00 PM-07 L-03 NSC-10 SCI-06 DRC-01

AID-20 /120 W

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P 071430Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5933

INFO NASA HEADQUARTERS WASH DC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TANANARIVE 0065

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, MA, US

SUBJECT: NASA STATION NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 009253 (NOTAL)

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BEGIN SUMMARY: GOMR NEGOTIATORS REFLECTED MORE WILLINGNESS TO COME TO SERIOUS COMPROMISE DURING JANUARY 17 SESSION THAN THEY HAD AT LAST MEETING JANUARY 5. THEY TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF U.S. PROPOSALS AND REITERATED GOMR'S DETERMINATION FOR NASA TO STAY IN MADAGASCAR AS LONG AS MALAGASY INTERESTS ARE SERVED TOO. THREAT OF BREAKDOWN IN NEGOTIATIONS WAS NOT UTTERED ONCE BY MALAGASY SPOKESMAN WHO TALKED MUCH MORE IN TERMS OF COMING TO AGREEMENT ON AMOUNTS TO BE PAID WITHIN NEXT COUPLE OF SESSIONS. MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ANDRIAMHAZO SEEMS TO HAVE HAD POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON TENOR OF NEGOTIATIONS, AND ALTHOUGH IT UNLIKELY GOMR WILL ACCEPT OUR FIRST OFFER, POSSIBILITIES OF REASONABLE COMPROMISE SEEM BRIGHTER NOW THAN EARLIER IN JANUARY. END SUMMARY.

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1. NASA STATION AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS RESUMED JANUARY 17 AT

1000 A.M. LOCAL. GOMR AND USG TEAM SAME AS USUAL. IN RESPONSE TO DCM'S APOLOGY FOR HAVING ASKED FOR DELAY UNTIL JANUARY 17 AND THEN ADDITIONAL POSTPONEMENT OF ONE HOUR (OCCASIONED BY FACT REFTTEL DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION AND NOT RECEIVED UNTIL 0830 A.M. LOCAL), GOMR SPOKESMAN REPLIED THAT HIS SIDE UNDERSTOOD PERFECTLY AND THAT THERE WAS NO GREAT URGENCY IN REACHING AGREEMENT. (COMMENT: ALTHOUGH GOMR REP WAS IN PART EXPRESSING TRADITIONAL MALAGASY COURTESY, EMBASSY BELIEVES ALSO THAT COMMENT WAS INDICATIVE OF NOW GENERALLY MORE RELAXED AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE OF GOMR NEGOTIATORS.)

2. DCM THEN PROCEEDED TO REITERATE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION ON ISSUE OF ARREARS BUT POINTED OUT USG HAS NO OBJECTION IF GOMR WISHES TO CONSIDER "SYMBOLIC GESTURE" -- TO BE OUTLINED SUBSEQUENTLY -- AS "ARREARS." GOMR SIDE NODDED AGREEMENT. DCM ALSO DREW ATTENTION TO CLAUSE (2) B OF 1967 AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR USG'S BEARING RENTAL COSTS FOR RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND SAID THAT IF ORIGINAL AGREEMENT HAD CALLED FOR USG TO BEAR RENTAL COSTS OF LAND OCCUPIED BY NASA STATION, SURELY SIMILAR LANGUAGE WOULD HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN CLAUSE 2 (A.). GOMR SIDE MADE NO FURTHER ATTEMPT TO MAKE LEGAL DEFENSE OF ITS POSITION ON ARREARS.

3. NEXT STEP WAS OFFERING NASA-OWNED RECEIVING SYSTEM AND TRANSMISSION SYSTEM PLUS SPARE PARTS FOR BOTH AS SYMBOLIC GESTURE FOR NASA STATION'S USE OF LAND FOR FIRST NINE YEARS. DCM EXPLAINED EQUIPMENT PACKAGE IS VALUED AT \$275,267.56. GOMR REPS TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF OFFER AND SPOKESMAN REPEATED IT BACK WITH REQUEST TO DCM TO VERIFY THAT SYMBOLIC GESTURE CONSISTED SOLELY OF EQUIPMENT AND DID NOT INCLUDE MONEY OFFER. DCM SAID SPOKESMAN'S UNDERSTANDING WAS CORRECT. SPOKESMAN THEN ASKED WHETHER THIS EQUIPMENT IS ALREADY IN MADAGASCAR AND WHETHER IT IS NEW. DCM REPLIED THAT IT IS HERE AND THAT, ALTHOUGH TECHNICALLY USED, IT IS IN "NEW STATE."

4. DCM THEN INFORMED GOMR SIDE THAT IF GOMR AND USG REACH AGREEMENT ON RENTAL PAYMENT FOR FUTURE YEARS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO DRAW UP A RENTAL DOCUMENT, ADDING THAT HE WAS SURE NEITHER GOMR NOR USG WILL EVER WANT TO FIND THEMSELVES AGAIN DISAGREEING OVER WHETHER RENT IS OR IS NOT OWED. DCM THEN STATED NASA IS PREPARED TO PAY OVER 11 TIMES AGRICULTURAL RENTAL

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VALUE OF LAND, I.E. \$34,600 FOR 340.6 HECTARES TURNED OVER FOR USE OF STATION; SUCH A RATIO BETWEEN AGRICULTURAL VALUE AND WHAT WE ARE WILLING TO PAY MUST CERTAINLY BE CONSIDERED "REASONABLE."

5. GOMR REPS FIRST SEEMED ELATED BUT THEN SHOWED CONSIDERABLE CONSTERNATION WHEN FIGURE OF 340.6 HECTARES APPEARED. THEY SAID THEY HAD BEEN WORKING ON BASIS OF 1,000 HECTARES, 910 HECTARES

TO BE EXACT. DCM PRODUCED MALAGASY MAP SHOWING THAT "PERIMETRE DE REBOISEMENT DE TSIMAHABEOMBY" OF GOMR WATERS AND FORESTRY SERVICE, AREA ACTUALLY USED BY NASA, CONSISTS OF 340.6 HECTARES. DCM POINTED OUT LAND OUTSIDE THAT PERIMETER IS PARTIALLY OCCUPIED BY VILLAGES AND FARMS AND HAS NEVER BEEN USED BY NASA.

6. GOMR SPOKESMAN THANKED USG SIDE FOR HAVING DEFINED OFFER OF "SYMBOLIC GESTURE" AND "REASONABLE RENT" AND SAID THAT IT WOULD BE REFERRED TO HIGHER AUTHORITIES FOR DECISION. HE ASKED DCM WHETHER THIS WAS FINAL NASA OFFER TO WHICH THE REPLY WAS, "NASA HAD MADE A VERY CAREFUL STUDY OF ITS POSSIBILITIES, AND WE BELIEVE THIS OFFER IS VERY REASONABLE."

7. GOMR SPOKESMAN THEN STATED HE HOPED USG SIDE WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT FIGURE ADVANCED BY GOMR SINCE BEGINNING OF NEGOTIATIONS (2 BILLION FMG FOR ARREARS PLUS 200 MILLION/YR FOR CY-74 AND FUTURE) WAS NOT AN ARBITRARY ONE. HE POINTED OUT LAND IN TANANARIVE INDUSTRIAL ZONE IS PAID FOR AT OFFICIAL RATE OF 259 FMG/SQUARE METER/YEAR ON 10-YEAR EMPHYTEUTIC LEASES OR 101 FMG/SQUARE METER/YEAR ON SIMILAR 90-YEAR LEASES, WHEREAS RATE PROPOSED BY GOMR FOR USE OF LAND USED AT NASA STATION WAS ONLY APPROXIMATELY 20 FMG/SQUARE METER/YEAR. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOMR PROPOSED TO CHARGE SO MUCH LESS BECAUSE LAND AT STATION HAS NOT BEEN IMPROVED BY GOMR (WATER AND ELECTRICITY, FOR EXAMPLE) AND IS NOT SO CLOSE INTO TANANARIVE AS INDUSTRIAL ZONE. HE ASKED THAT ABOVE FIGURES BE BROUGHT TO ATTENTION OF NASA.

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 CIAE-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TANANARIVE 0065

8. GOMR SPOKESMAN THEN SUGGESTED THAT NEXT MEETING BE LEFT UNTIL GOMR HAD HAD TIME TO STUDY U.S. PROPOSAL. DCM SUGGESTED THAT NEXT MEETING BE TENTATIVELY SET FOR JANUARY 22 AT 0900 A.M. LOCAL, AND GOMR SIDE AGREED.

9. IN CLOSING, GOMR SPOKESMAN SAID HE HOPES USG REALIZES "GOMR IS MOTIVATED ("ANIME") BY INTENTION TO KEEP NASA IN MADAGASCAR." HE THEN STRESSED THAT WE SHOULD NOT INTERPRET MALAGASY CLAIMS ("REVENDEICATIONS") AS AN ATTEMPT TO DRIVE US OUT. GOMR WISHES TO COLLABORATE WITH US, HE INDICATED, BUT NEEDS TO SATISFY MADAGASCAR'S OWN INTERESTS TOO. HE FELT WE WOULD PERHAPS NEED ANOTHER COUPLE OF SESSIONS TO REACH AGREED AMOUNT FOR RENT AND THEN ONE OR MORE TO WORK OUT PRECISE LANGUAGE OF NEW AGREEMENT.

10. EMBASSY BELIEVES NOTABLE MORE CONGENIAL SPIRIT OF GOMR NEGOTIATORS DURING JANUARY 17 SESSION (PARTICULARLY AS EXPRESSED PARA 9 ABOVE) RESULTS FROM DIRECT INTERVENTION OF MINISTER OF TERRITORIAL DEVELOPMENT ANDRIAMAHAZO AND THAT CHANCES FOR REACHING ACCORD ARE BRIGHTER NOW THAN AT BEGINNING OF JANUARY. ALTHOUGH THERE IS SLIGHT POSSIBILITY GOMR MIGHT ACCEPT USG PROPOSAL AS SET FORTH JANUARY 17, EMBASSY EXPECTS GOMR SIDE WILL RETURN TO NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH CONSIDERABLY MODIFIED FINANCIAL
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DEMENDS, BUT STILL SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN WHAT WE HAVE OFFERED. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT IF THIS IS CASE, USG SIDE TAKE NOTE AND PROMISE TO REPORT TO WASHINGTON FOR FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
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Message Attributes

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